THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Madam, Deputy Chairman, the issue which Dr. Shrikant has raised is very relevant. It has got nothing to do with discussion. It is a facility that is essential for members who work in Parliament. It is not a privilege at all, it is a facility. So gas connection is a privilege because members have to satisfy their constituents. So that problem will be taken care of very quickly. We will come back to you as quickly as possible.

SHRI K. R. MALKANI (Delhi): What is the meaning of 'quickly'?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Malkani, now don't question. (*Interruptions*).Mr. Malkani, once the Leader of the House says, let us take it. He will inform us. We still have one week.

Re. Non-Passing of representation of women in Parliament and State Legislatures Bill due to lack of consensus

SHRIMATI JAY PRADA NAHATA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views as to how to herald an era of equality for women and men in politics and public life. Though democracy has spread its wings across the globe, women's political power has not, despite the fact that women constitute fifty per cent of the world's population. The Conference of Inter-Parliamentary Union that was held recently in our Capital has strikingly brought out the ignoble myth and misery of the disproportionate representation of the fair sex in the political sphere the world over. As per our Indian Constitution every citizen, whether man or woman, is bestowed with the fundamental right to live freely, to express freely and act freely. Anybody can be selected and get elected by the people who have a right to vote. Why then are women looked down upon? Why then are women not encouraged and elevated? The root cause behind this is that men are biased and they are not scaling them with equal status and strata in the society on a par with them; men think high of themselves, and they want to safeguard their position. There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing. The elders say,

"यत्र नार्यस्तु पूज्यन्ते रमन्ति तत्र देवताः"

which means "Where women are respected, there Gods delight, and where they are not, there all works and efforts come to naught."

Madam, as per the National Crime Record Bureau, the crime record against fair sex, including rape, dowry death, torture and eve-teasing has shot up from 67,072 in 1989 to nearly 84,000 in 1993. Statistically speaking, the proportion of women to men in our country is 481:519. For all practical purposes it would be valid to take the proportion to be 50:50. The process of our respresentative democracy is incomplete. To complete it, representative bodies should consist of women and men in equal numbers. Madam, there is a fear complex that men will be trailing behind if women enter politics. Thus, men have created traditional barriers against women entering into politics and public life and confined them to the four walls of the family to prevent their becoming the domineering class of the human race. We call our land 'motherland'. We call our language 'mother language'. But we are hesitant to give the reigns to the same great mother when she is ready to share the burden and serve the country along with men in the wider scope of the country as one family.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union has outlined several suggestions in order to break the problem of under-representation of women in political life. These include restructuring of opportunities and encouraging female participation among other things.

True democracy prevails only when the people of a country basically realise to give to women their due share in the political arena. I firmly believe that our country would usher in an enlightened renaissance if we take steps to ensure equal representation of women in the law-making bodies of our country. I appeal that the Bill providing for 33% reservation of seats to women may be passed in the present Session of Parliament itself, without any further delay so that we can say that our motherland has achieved the highest glory-crown among all the democracies in the world.

If there is any land on this earth that lay claim to be a *Punyabhoomi*— the land where humanity has attained its highest towards gentleness, towards genorosity, towards purity, towards calmness, devoted towards women and above all, the land of introspection and spirituality—it is India. That is our motherland.

The charisma of women, the challenges of women, the consistency of women elevate the examplary exponent of our ethical values—that every women should become a mother of green revolution with the multifaceted Mida's touch for the Indian glory and pride. I pray that our hon. Prime Minister and all other Parliamentarians would feel duty-bound to give women their due share and pledge to make passing of the women reservation Bill a reality in deed and in practice.

Thank you, Madam.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA (Bihar): Madam, I associate myself with Shrimati Jayaprada Nahata.

उपसभापति: जयन्ती नटराजन जी का नाम लिखा है, वह बोल लें उसके बाद आप असोसिएट करिए।

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, we should put an end to the stonewalling and obfuscating.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी (राजस्थान): बिल तो आ रहा है फिर बहस करने से क्या फायदा?

उपसभापति: बिल ही तो नहीं आ रहा है इसीलिए बहस हो रही है।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी: बहस करते-करते बिल ही गायब हो जाएगा।

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, there should be an end to the stonewalling and obfuscating. There is only one more weak left for this Budget Session to be over. In the last Session, on several occasions, we, the women Parliamentarians in this House, raised our voice. Yet, there were efforts to stonewall it from various quarters, from various vested interests. We need not go into all that. They say that reservation has to be provided for backward classes and for other disadvantaged sections before reservation for women can be provided. All the women said that they were not against reservation for backward classes. They welcomed it. By all means reservation and any other benefit for any disadvantaged section are welcome. But why do you tag it with the women's reservation issue? What were you doing for the last 50 years? Why don't you deling the women's reservation from the reservation for backward classes? They agitate for it. Why do you tag it with the women's reservation issue? It creates a suspicion in our minds that this is just an excuse not to pass the Bill that we fought for long and hard over the last 50 years. I don't want to take much of your time except to recount that. When the Bill was introduced, the then prime Minister promised to have it passed the same day, within the same week, within the same Session. Now more than 8 months have elapsed. They then referred it to a Joint Select Committee which is the best known way for putting anything on the shelf. Unfortunately, the Joint Select Committee defeated their efforts by coming up with their report, recommending that the Bill should be passed almost unanimously, except for one or two dissenting notes. There were one or two dissenting notes but the majority of the Committee recommended that the Bill should be passed. The Joint Select Committee of the Parliament, which is

Parliament in miniature, has now recommended that the Bill should be passed. Madam, I don't understand why there is still a need for an all-party consultation. Are you going to pass the Bill, I ask the Government or are you going to stop it? Once the Joint Select Committee has given its report, what does further lie in the way? Again, Madam, the reports about the all-party meeting that took place the day before yesterday are quite shocking and unfortunate. I think the issue has been lowered to this degree that they are saying that they accept it in principle, which means we are back to square one, well before square one. We all know you accept it in principle. All political parties had it in their manifesto. All political parties fought elections on this banner. But the moment the time has come to implement it, everybody is backing off. These same political parties are now talking about reservation for Backward Classes. Was that how it was in the manifesto? No, Madam. Therefore, I say that during the last all-party meeting on the day before yesterday, people are now talking about reducing the quota. This is totally unacceptable to the women of this country. It will not be accepted by women. I, therefore, call upon the government to bring the Bill forward without further day. Forget about consultation. let those who want to vote against the Bill, vote against it. Let us know who these parties are and who these individuals are, who will vote against the Bill asking for 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and in the Assemblies. Let them state their reasons and let them go back to the people after that and we will see whether they can come back. Therefore, there is no further reason to delay this Bill. There is no need for consultations. There is no need for consensus. Let us vote on the Bill and if it is the fate of women of this country that the Bill gets defeated, let it be defeated. At least we will know where you stand. Please stop obfuscating this issue any further. Thank you, Madam.

उपसभापति: श्री संजय निरूपम जी आप संक्षेप में बोल दीजिए।

श्री संजय निरूपम (महाराष्ट्र): मैडम, श्रीमती जयप्रदा नाहटा द्वारा जो विषय उठाया गया है उससे मैं अपने आपको संबद्ध करता हूं। मैं उनको आश्वस्त करना चाहता हूं कि हम शिव सेना वाले इस बात से कभी नहीं डरते कि औरतों के पॉलिटिक्स में आ जाने से मर्दों को खतरा हो जायेगा। जिस तरफ वह बैठी हुई हैं शायद उस तरफ की पार्टीज के लोग तकलीफ में होंगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Why criticise others? You talk about your party. Why do you talk about other parties? *(Interruptions)*

श्री संजय निरूपम: मैडम, इन्होंने जो बोलना था बोल चुकी हैं। मैं यह बात इसलिए बोल रहा हूं क्योंकि महाराष्ट्र की विधान सभा ने आलरेडी इस तरह का लेजिसलेशन पास करके सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट के पास भेज दिया है कि लोक सभा और विधान सभा में महिलाओं को 33 प्रतिशत आरक्षण मिलना चाहिए। इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से इस सदन में यह मांग रखता हूं कि जितनी जल्दी हो यह विधेयक सदन में प्रस्तुत किया जाय, उसके सारे पहलुओं पर बहस की जाये और उसके बाद पास करने की व्यवस्था की जाये।

श्री शत्रुघ्न सिन्हा (बिहार): मैडम, श्रीमती जयप्रदा नाहटा जी ने जो कुछ कहा है उससे मैं अपने आपको संबद्ध करता हूं और उसका समर्थन करता हूं। मैं श्रीमती जयप्रदा नाहटा जी को शुभकामनाएं और आशीर्वाद देता हूं। धन्यवाद।

उपसभापति: आप भी बोलिए।

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Rajasthan): Madam, I wish to make the position very clear to Mrs. Jayanthi Natarajan, without elaborating further on this point. The BJP is in total support of this Bill. We support you demand. Let it be made clear that our National Executive has passed...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It means everybody should get up and say that his party supports...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: So, it is for the Government to respond. So far as we are concerned, we are here to cooperate, we are here to support. Whatever else you want on the reservation Bill, we are here to support. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Madam, ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You also support. You just announce it without... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Madam, we have already made it clear that the Left parties—I am saying this because the she has referred to the meeting—have unequivocally supported it and we want to immediate passage of this Bill.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, I only say that there should be no further politicisation of the issue. We stand on the common ground. If there are people who oppose the move, don't dub them as masculine opponents or political opponents. There are always people in the world who don't see reason. I wish my sisters looked at the problem from a different angle. If there are people to oppose it, there may be some women also who may oppose it. Therefore, the point is that largely the nation is united on this issue and there is no question of disunity on the basis of politics, sex and colour.

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा: मैडम, जो मुद्दा हमारी बहन जयप्रदा नाहटा ने उठाया है, मैं अपने आपको उससे सम्बद्ध करती हूं। पिछले साल 16 जुलाई को प्रधान मंत्री सदन में थे तब मैंने इस प्रश्न को उठाया था। हमारे सदन के सारे लोगों ने उसका समर्थन किया और प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कैटेगरीकली एयश्योर किया था। that such a Bill will be passed. Not only that, he also said that 30 per cent reservation for women in jobs will be given. This was an assurance given by the Prime Minister. लोअर हाउस में सरकार की ओर से भी एक मंत्री ने यह आश्वासन दिया था। उसके बाद सालभार बीत गया, कुछ भी नहीं हुआ। बार-बार कमेटियां बनी, ज्वाइन्ट सलेक्ट कमेटी में इस बात को भेजा गया और वहां पर यह मुद्दा उठाया गया कि ओ०बी०सी० महिलाओं के लिए भी रिजर्वेशन हो। हमें ओ०बी०सी० के रिजर्वेशन पर कोई आपत्ति नहीं है लेकिन उसके लिए जो मूल चुनाव प्रक्रिया का विधेयक है "प्रिजेन्टेशन आफ पीपल्स एक्ट" इसमें संशोधन कीजिये। जैसे एस०सी०/एस०टी० का रिजर्वेशन है, उसी तरह इनका भी हो जायेगा। मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। भगवान के लिए महिलाओं को, औरतों को मत बांटिये। सारी औरतें पिछड़ी हैं, सारी औरतें शोषित हैं, पीड़ित हैं, दलित हैं। इसमें जाति का सवाल नहीं है, फारवर्ड, बैकवर्ड की बात नहीं आती है, आदिवासी हरिजनों की बात नहीं आती है। सारे लोगों के साथ अत्याचार एक जैसा होता है। जो आंकड़े इन्होंने बतायें हैं इनमें ऊंच-नीच का सवाल नहीं है। मैंने आज ही अखबार में पढ़ा कि मेरठ में एक पी०एच०डी० करने वाली लड़की since she was sexually harassed by her guide and other professors, she hanged herself to death. She was an educated girl and doing Phd. इस तरह की घटनाएं दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी में भी हुई हैं। महोदया इस विधेयक को तत्काल पारित किया जाना चाहिये। जिस हालत में ज्वाइन्ट सलेक्ट कमेटी के पास भेजा गया है यह तो हमारे कॉमन मिनिमम प्रोग्राम में था, यूनाइटेड फ्रन्ट की सरकार के कॉमन मिनिमम प्रोग्राम में यह है कि हम ऐसा विधेयक पारित करेंगे, औरतों को उनका हक देंगे, 33 परसेंट रिजर्वेशन देंगे। कांग्रेस पार्टी के चुनाव घोषणापत्र में है, बी०जे०पी० के चुनाव घोषणापत्र में है, हर एक राजनीतिक दल के चुनाव घोषणापत्र में है। मैं सरकार से कह रही हूं कि सबके घोषणापत्र में है। आप इस बात को लाइये। अगर यह पास हो जाता है तो ठीक है और अगर फेल हो जाता है तो ठीक है और फेल हो जाता है तो जाये। If it fails, let it fail. Let the country know who are the culprits who don't want such a Bill to be passed and who don't want that social justice be extended to women. So, I implore upon the Government to bring forward the Bill in this session itself.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA (Assam): Madam, I would like to make it clear that as far as my party AGP is concerned, it is fully committed to support this Bill.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश): मैडम, श्रीमती जयप्रदा नाहटा जी ने जो मुद्दा यहां उठाया है कि महिलाओं को इम्पावरमेंट मिलना चाहिये, लोक सभा और विधान सभाओं में रिजर्वेशन होना चाहिये इसके साथ मैं अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करते हुए यह कहना चाहूंगी कि जब सब पार्टियों ने अपने मैनीफैस्टो में इसका उल्लेख किया है और यहां पर हाउस में भी सबकी रजामन्दी है, बी०जे०पी०, शिवसेना सब पार्टियों की

रजामन्दी है तो फिर क्या कारण है कि बार-बार इस मुद्दे को सदन में लाकर हमारा मजाक बनाया जाता है। हम कितना और अपमान सहेंगी। सदन के स्तर पर महिलाओं का अपमान हम कब तक सहन करेंगी मजाक मत बनाइये हम लोगों का। पहले भी वैलफेयर स्कीमें बनी है लेकिन पहली दफा इम्पावरमेंट का प्रश्न आया है। आज इम्पावरमेंट पर हम लोगों को जैसा जयन्ती जी ने कहा इस बिल को आने दीजिये रिजेक्ट करने दीजिये। अगर नहीं पास होता है, गिर जाता तो दुख नहीं होगा, कोई गम नहीं होगा। लेकिन इस बिल को जल्दी से जल्दी 33 परसेंट रिजर्वेशन का, वीमेन्स इम्पावरमेंट का लोक सभा, विधान सभा में होना चाहिये और मजाक हम सहन नहीं कर पायेंगी।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Would the government react to it?

उपसभापति: श्री जनार्दन यादव।

SHRI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, let the Government react. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Madam, I will react, if it is your direction. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री जनार्दन यादव (बिहार): मैडम,...

उपसभापति: यादव जी, अभी आपका नम्बर नहीं आया है।

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, Mrs. Jayanthi Natarajan referred to the meeting the Prime Minister had with leaders of various parties. Consultations are going on at the level of Prime Minister—leaders of political parties and I am sure proper steps will be taken in that direction at the earliest possible date.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is the limit of 'earliest'?

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Madam, this is only a political statement. *...(Interruptions)...* Madam, we want a direction from the Chair also. *...(Interruptions)...* This is not an assurance, madam. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री नरेश यादव (बिहार): महिलाओं को आरक्षण दिया जाए लेकिन जो पिछड़ी जाति की हरिजन महिलाएं है और आदिवासी महिलाएं हैं, उन लोगों को भी आरक्षण मिलना चाहिये **(व्यवधान)**

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, should we get up everytime and remind the Government that fifty per cent of the population is women? *...(Interruptions)...* Madam, every day, till the Session ends, let us see how long this process of consultation continues. *...(Interruptions)...*

Re. Gang rape of a woman and her daughter in Bihar

श्री जनार्दन यादव (बिहार): **माननीय** उपसभापति महोदया, बिहार प्रदेश के अन्तर्गत तंडवा थाना, चतरा जिला, सरठो गांव में बलात्कार की शिकार महिला मैमूना खातून और उनकी पुत्री मुनिजा खातून राजधानी के प्राइवेट नर्सिंग होम में दाखिल है। इन दोनों मां-बेटियों के साथ सामूहिक बलात्कार हुआ। सब से घृणित बात यह है कि इन मां-बेटियों का अपहरण हुआ और मां का बेटे के सामने और भाई के सामने बहन का सामूहिक बलात्कार हो और इसके बाद भी बिहार सरकार जो संवेदनशून्य है, विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों के कार्यकर्ताओं ने मिल कर, सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं ने मिल कर मुख्य मंत्री को भी आग्रह किया कि इन दोनों महिलाओं को जो मुस्लिम, दलित और अल्पसंख्यक वर्ग से आती हैं, जो प्राइवेट अस्पताल में हैं, इनके इलाज पर एक पैसा खर्च नहीं किया गया। तंडवा थाना के प्रभारी जो है, उन्होंने अभी तक उन बलात्कारियों को नहीं पकड़ा है, कुछ नहीं किया है। इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार के गृह मंत्री जी से आग्रह करना चाहता हूं कि इस प्रकार के जो बलात्कार हो रहे हैं अल्पसंख्यकों के साथ, हरिजनों के साथ, अभी उत्तर प्रदेश में दो मई को एक प्रधानाध्यापक और शिक्षक ने अपनी माइनर छात्राओं के साथ बलात्कार किया। यह घटना सहारनपुर जिले की है। इस प्रकार की जो घटनाएं महिलाओं के साथ घट रही हैं, सामूहिक बलात्कार हो रहे हैं, सभी दलों के लोगों को बुला कर के इस पर रोक लगाने की व्यवस्था की जाए। खास कर के बिहार के चतरा जिले की जो घटना है, मैं आपके माध्यम से गृह मंत्री जी से मांग करना चाहता हूं कि बिहार सरकार से रिपोर्ट मंगा कर बलात्कारियों को कड़ी से कड़ी सज़ा देने का प्रयास किया